

Monday 19 March 2012

You are here [News](#)

War memorabilia needed for archive

Published on **Wednesday 29 February 2012 12:21**

Families are being urged to search their attics and cupboards for forgotten First World War memorabilia to be featured in a unique archive and event in Lancashire.

Europeana 1914-1918 is creating the first online European archive of private memorabilia from the conflict to mark the 100-year anniversary of its outbreak.

The digital library, which brings together museums, academic and cultural institutions, will be holding Family History Roadshows where people can bring their items to be looked at by historians and experts.

The first roadshow will be held at the Museum of Lancashire in Preston on March 10 from 10am to 5.30pm. All items will be photographed and uploaded to the archive during the day.

Jill Cousins, Europeana's executive director, said: "Memorabilia and stories are kept by families for a while, but after a century their significance starts to fade.

"That's why our online archive, which is collecting material from across Europe in a series of roadshows, is so important. The Preston event will give people the opportunity to share their memories, photos and diaries with future generations, while learning about the sacrifices their ancestors made."

Stephen Bull, curator of military history and archaeology at the Museum of Lancashire, said: "As the centenary of 1914 and the First World War approaches, it is more important than ever that we save these items.

"We are hoping people will bring in anything from that period, be it a family photo, a love letter, some sort of document or object. It doesn't matter if they don't know the background behind it, once it's online then it's likely people will be able to fill in some of those gaps."

Those unable to attend can scan or digitally photograph material and upload it on the website www.europeana1914-1918.eu/.

Copyright (c) Press Association Ltd. 2012, All Rights Reserved.